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Claiborne Pell

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February 12, 1980

Honorable Livingston L. Biddle
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the Center for the Arts in Westerly, Rhode Island, has recently submitted an application to the Challenge Grant Program of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Center for the Arts is perhaps Rhode Island's leading community arts organization sponsoring a wide variety of arts activities including classical concerts, theatrical productions, jazz concerts, childrens' events, as well as classes and workshops for all ages. The Center is a unique and vital cultural resource for the small City of Westerly. I am continually amazed at the extent of local support for the Center. Over 500 volunteers assist in organizing programs which reach an audience of 45,000 annually.

The \$20,000 being sought from the Challenge Grant Program will assist the Center in completing long-needed renovations on its historical building, the former Immaculate Conception Church. The additional funds will cap off a major fund drive of \$218,000 which has already raised \$107,000 from major donors.

I wish to express my strong personal support for this grant request from the Center for the Arts and am hopeful that the Endowment will ultimately act favorably on it.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pel
Chairman
Subcommittee on Education,
Arts, and Humanities

AC:CF